

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated July 21, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 11-26 are withdrawn in this application. Claims 1-9 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-9 and 11-26 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,433,851 to Shimada (hereinafter "Shimada").

The rejection of claims 1-9 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-9 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a sixth conductive layer between and in contact with both the exposed portion of the third conductive layer and the fourth conductive layer, and between and in contact with both the first conductive layer and the fifth conductive layer." None of the cited references including the ARA and Shimada, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

In the Office Action, the Examiner admits that the "AAPA fails to specifically disclose a sixth conductive layer between and in contact with both the exposed portion of the third conductive layer and the fourth conductive layer and between and in contact with both the first conductive layer and the fifth conductive layer." (See Office Action, p. 3.) In order to cure this deficiency the examiner cites Shimada stating: "Shimada discloses an LCD having a sixth conductive layer (23b) between and in contact with both the exposed portion of the third conductive layer and the fourth conductive layer and between and in contact with both the first conductive layer and the fifth conductive layer (Fig. 15)." The metal electrode 23b is identified as the sixth conductive layer. The Examiner does not point to where first, third, fourth, and fifth conductive layers are in Shimada, little less identifying the relationship between these layers and the sixth layer. All Fig. 15 shows is a metal electrode 23b between a drain electrode 36b and a pixel electrode 21. At best the drain electrode 36b and pixel electrode 21 could be the third and fourth layers or the first and fifth layers, but not all four layers as claimed. Accordingly claims 1-9 are allowable over ARA and Shimada singly or in combination.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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